



# VISUALLY THRIVING

Following a Hoover alum through her professional life.

**T**hinking about after high school can be terrifying. As students, all we know is school and to get good grades for our future, but what happens after high school?

Many Hoover alumni have successful careers and adult lives after high school. Class of 2016 graduate Lily Smith is a great example.

After graduating Smith went to the University of Iowa. At college, Smith participated in the newspaper. While she did just about everything in the paper, she gravitated towards visual journalism. Now, Smith is a visual journalist at the Omaha World-Herald.

Smith's professional journey started at Hoover. Smith always found herself in the Hoover newsroom when she wasn't supposed to be in there. She had a passion for writing but, hadn't discovered her true passion for visuals. She was

encouraged and pushed by the Hoover staff for the better.

"Werth and Hamilton were the people who encouraged my love for visuals; both of them were so willing to push me," Smith said.

In college she met a friend that pushed her even further. This friend inspired Smith when she probably needed it the most. This friend is the person that made Smith realize her love from photography.

"So, as he and I became closer friends, and he eventually pulled me into being on the photo staff at The Daily Iowan. I was hooked. In the beginning, I was a terrible photojournalist. I wanted to get better so badly, and that motivated me when it may have scared others away. I felt like he knew so much about how to make good pictures and I absorbed as much knowledge from him as I could while we were coworkers," Smith said.

The biggest part of her success

was the challenges she put upon herself. She has overcome many things to get her a job in the field she wants. She took the path to the life she wanted, and she is happy where she is.

"I've been through a lot to get to this point, and I know I'm only in the beginnings of my professional career. But at the end of the day I love my job, the things I've learned and the friends I've made along the way. I can genuinely say I have my dream job," Smith said.

Smith has the job of her dreams. She worked hard for everything she has, and her success can only be blamed on her perseverance. Looking at journeys, such as Smith's, it is inspiring to know that someone can leave Hoover and be successful.

"Perseverance is the name of the game," Smith said.





*Smith immediately after the last Hawkeye football game against Illinois at Kinnick Stadium last November. Joseph Cress Photo*